



# Member's Voice Dunn County

## CONSERVATIVE BUDGETING PUTS DUNN COUNTY IN GOOD CONDITION

ROADS, COURTHOUSE AND LAW  
ENFORCEMENT ON TAP FOR 2018

Looking back at 2017, Dunn County Auditor Tracey Dolezal goes back one year further. She said, "In 2016, things didn't look good, so the board set a conservative budget and it turned out good. 2017 was good and 2018 is very exciting."

Dolezal said the 2018 excitement is largely due to the Bush Foundation Grant to Dunn County for \$500,000 to help improve quality of life in the county, including mental health issues. A second positive for Dunn County is that in addition to a carryover from 2016, 2017 saw increased oil tax revenue. That increased income could add to greater optimism in 2018.



Dunn County is upgrading its county roads, bridges and culverts.

Hauck's upbeat assessment of 2017 in Dunn County includes:

- More pipelines
- Less truck traffic
- Enhanced refract
- More families moving in

Hauck said, "The boom was hard on everybody. We've stabilized now. More families are moving in to the county. We got more pipelines in and that meant less truck traffic. Now it 2018, we can do even more work on our roads."

Hauck and Dolezal pointed to one road that the commissioners have their eye on. 101<sup>st</sup> Street that runs from near Dunn Center to the Southwest Grain Terminal near Richardton and Taylor is a major farm to market road for the region's grain producers. At one time, the county looked at paving the road, but decided instead to maintain it as a major gravel agriculture road.



Dunn County Commission Chairman Reinhard Hauck echoed Dolezal's positivity. "The county got caught up on roads. We kept our staff, even gave them a little raise and picked up more of their health care costs."

One big construction project made possible by income from federal mineral royalties is the remodeling and expansion of the south side of the Dunn County Courthouse at Manning. The \$14.6 million project will consolidate offices that are scattered between Manning and Killdeer. The Phase One additions to be complete by mid-June 2018. Then offices currently in the courthouse will move in to the addition and Phase Two will remodel the existing building. Ultimately, an addition to the north side of the courthouse will provide space for the courts and for law enforcement, including a sally port.

Hauck is hopeful that crude oil prices will remain at or above the \$60.00/bbl level. He said that will "provide more opportunities" for Dunn County. "We struggle with drug traffic through here, and we'd like to help our local law enforcement get a handle on that."